

**ABSTRACT**

Environment detection systems are used to aid drivers in road vehicles. To this end, optical sensors are applied to the road vehicle in order to record environmental data. The recorded environmental data is processed to form an image by means of a computing unit, and is then presented to the driver, for example on a display. In addition, the image data can be subjected to a further evaluation, for example, in order to identify objects located therein. For this purpose, a very large amount of data must be processed however, such that the requirements for the efficiency of the hardware are very high, in order to provide the system with a real-time capacity. The invention thus relates to a method which provides the system with a real-time capacity by means of simple data processing. By carrying out a multi-stage evaluation in individual identification partial regions and by limiting the identification region to the region of the driving lane, the quantity of data to be evaluated can be considerably reduced and the data can be rapidly processed during the environment detection process.